

SOCIAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

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ANTI-LIQUOR PROGRAM APPROVED

The Department of Social Welfare and Rural Work presented to the board of trustees of the United Society at its meeting November 18-19 a proposed program to meet the increasingly serious situation growing out of the legalized manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages. With the coming of war and the calling of millions of young men into the armed forces there has been a growing concern on the part of fathers and mothers and civic leaders over conditions growing out of the sale of liquor in the vicinity of the camps where these men are being trained for military and naval service. This anxiety has been deepened by the known activities of brewers and distillers to promote the sale of their products among men in uniform and by the resistance of these interests to all efforts to restrict the sale of liquor to men in the armed forces. All attempts to secure enactment of the Sheppard Bill (S.860) to prohibit the sale of liquor within certain prescribed zones adjacent to camps have thus far been unavailing, despite the overwhelming demand from the country at large. To date the opposition of Secretary of War Stimson and Secretary of the Navy Knox, and pressure from the liquor interests have kept the bill effectively buried in committee. When Congress had before the bill to draft 18-19 year-old young men, Senator Wash Lee, of Oklahoma added an amendment to forbid the sale of intoxicating liquors near the camps in which they are to be trained. Immediately every brewer, distiller, beer and whiskey wholesaler, and tavern owner got busy and sent telegrams and letters to Washington opposing the amendment. Secretary Stimson and Secretary Knox again went to bat against the amendment and their opposition contributed no little to its defeat. On a vote the Lee amendment was returned to the committee and the bill was passed without this protection for these boys. When the liquor traffic helps to defeat legislation that would have thrown some protection around 18 and 19 year-old boys called from high school and early years at college to help fight their country's battles it demonstrates how little of ethical decency it possesses and just how little regulation there would be of the traffic if brewers and distillers could have their way. It begins to appear that if the American people want any sort of effective protection from this ravenous, predatory, and unholy business they will have to rise in this might and smite it in their wrath.

The program proposed by the Department of Social Welfare and approved by the board of trustees carried the following recommendations:

(Continued on page 4)

DEPARTMENT ADOPTS 10-POINT PROGRAM OF RURAL WORK

At its regular meeting on November 18-19 the board of trustees of The United Christian Missionary Society gave approval to a "Ten-Point Program of Rural Work" resented by the department of social welfare and rural work. This department was constituted by the board of trustees last summer and the program of work submitted is intended to outline the work of the department as it plans for the future. For many years there has been an insistent demand for more adequate service for more than 5000 town and country churches in our fellowship. Notwithstanding the excellent work done by the various state missionary societies and educational workers, there has been a feeling on the part of rural church leaders that more and better planning should be done on the national level. The new department, though limited in personnel and budget, is already planning a number of advances in cooperation with the Town and Country Church Committee of the Home and State Missions Council, the Division of Christian Education, and the Home Missions Council of North America. The "Ten-Point Program" is summarized below:

1. To lift up the rural church as an effective means for the enrichment of rural life.
2. To reach every rural church in the brotherhood with a message of fellowship and service.
3. To develop a ministry especially trained to serve rural areas.
4. To promote a program of Christian stewardship that will adequately undergird the Kingdom of God in rural areas.
5. To develop a program of Christian education that will meet the needs of rural people.
6. To seek for rural people a fairer share of the economic goods of life.
7. To undergird the spiritual values of the rural family.
8. To provide better opportunities for rural youth.
9. To promote cooperation between rural churches and other community agencies.
10. To help rural people to see themselves as members of the world community.

One of the first tasks must be that of adequate
(Continued on page 4)

FEDERAL JUDGE DECLARES JAPANESE EVACUATION VOID

On November 12 Federal Judge James A. Fee, in Portland, Oregon handed down a decision in which he declared that the orders of Lieutenant General John L. Dewitt evacuating American citizens of Japanese descent from the Western Defense Command and sending them to evacuation camps and relocation centers was unconstitutional. When the decision was announced it was given publicity over a night news broadcast. It was given no general news coverage by mid-western papers. Nor was it referred to in the general news reviews. Time failed to carry any word of it. Associated Press under date of November 18th, gave this momentous decision exactly 17 lines. The Indianapolis News gave it an inconspicuous position on page nine.

Yet this Federal Judge challenged the right of the Army to issue military orders affecting civilians without first proclaiming martial law. General Dewitt, the decision said, had no legal authority to move American citizens of Japanese descent out of their homes or interfere with them in any way that was not equally applicable to all American citizens in those areas. When martial law is not declared, said the judge, "Civil law is supreme. Neither directly nor indirectly can the military power become dominant." All of which means that General Dewitt had no authority to take any steps against American citizens of Japanese descent that were not taken against other American citizens, and that he had no authority, in any event, without placing the area under martial law.

This decision was not unexpected by those "in the know." Attorney General Biddle sometime ago informed a committee of churchmen who called on him about the matter that he had told the President that if the question ever reached the Supreme Court it would be declared unconstitutional. Yet today the evacuation of American citizens of Japanese descent from their homes, their farms, their business and their professions is an accomplished fact. Human rights can be invaded by doing a thing known in advance to be illegal and allowing the courts months later to declare it so.

CATHOLICS ASK PEACE BASED ON CHRISTIANITY

Catholic archbishops and bishops of the U.S. concluded a two-day session in Washington on Nov. 17th with a statement asking that peace be made on a Christian basis and declaring that "In the post-war world the profit element of industry and commerce must be made subservient to the common good of communities and nations if we are to have a lasting peace." The members of the hierarchy declared that neither secularism, exploitation, nor totalitarianism, whether Fascist or Communist, can write a real and lasting peace. Speaking of totalitarianism, the prelates said, "The state that usurps total powers, by that very fact, becomes a despot to its own people and a menace to the family of nations.... Exploitation cannot write a real and lasting peace. Where greedy might and selfish expediency are made the substitutes of justice there can be no securely ordered world." Secularism the statement declared, does not encompass the whole man and cannot evaluate the spirituality of the human soul or the supreme good of all mankind.

PROTESTANT MINISTERS URGE ATTACK ON NEUTRALS

The New York Herald Tribune on October 27 carried a full page advertisement announcing a petition "To the Governments of the United States and the British Commonwealth," claiming the signatures of 911 Protestant ministers, demanding "open and outright and immediate war upon all Fascist nations and to attack at once all those whose 'neutrality' is a mere option held by the Axis to be taken up at its convenience." The advertisement was sponsored by Kenneth Leslie, editor of The Protestant. The display carried the names of several hundred ministers, bishops, professors, and secretaries.

One unlooked-for consequence of the publishing of the petition was the disclaimer of 19 persons whose names appeared that they had ever signed such a document. Whereupon the sponsors inserted another advertisement, howbeit, much less conspicuously displayed, admitting that these names had been included through a clerical error. Among those disclaiming the document were Bishops William Scarlett and Beverly D. Tucker, of the Episcopal Church, Dr. Ernest Fremont Tittle, Dr. Charles M. Sheldon, H. Norman Sibley, Clarence E. Skinner, William B. Spofford, executive secretary of the Church League for Industrial Democracy, Dr. Arthur L. Swift, Jr., of Union Theological Seminary, and Robert Leonard Tucker. The Christian Century dubbed the error "inexcusable carelessness."

More important than this regrettable error is the fact that several hundred churchmen from all parts of the U.S., many of them well known men put their names to this sort of a statement. Ministers of the gospel are usually thought of as men of peace who deplore war, violence, and bloodshed. But these ministers demand that our country and Britain make "open and outright and immediate war" upon neutral nations.

The document was obviously directed at Vichy France and Franco Spain. But what about the unhappy people of France and Spain? You can't make war on Petain and Laval and Franco without making war also on their suffering people. And what about Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey? They perhaps would fight if they were invaded, but they have known all along that their neutrality was at the mercy of Hitler and that he could, and would, invade if necessity compelled him to do so. And what about our own job? Haven't we had our hands full in the Southwest Pacific, China, Burma, Russia and North Africa? Do these gentlemen want the U.S. and Britain deliberately to take on additional wars that would mean death to thousands of American and British boys? And how about this demand in the light of what happened two weeks later? Do they still want us to attack France and Spain?

To declare "This petition has nothing to say about military tactics or strategy" when one of the headlines of the advertisement reads "Clergymen Request Opening Western Front" is disingenuous, to say the least. That is, if words mean anything. To demand the opening of a Western or any other sort of front is move into the field of military strategy and tactics, however much more such intention may be disclaimed.

Dr. Alva W. Taylor, well-known Disciple who was for many years secretary of the Board of Temperance and Social Welfare, is now executive secretary of the Conference of Southern Mountain Workers and editor of its quarterly publication, Mountain Life and Work. This well edited magazine can be had for \$1 per year. Address Dr. Taylor at 101 Bowling Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee.

The average salary of teachers, supervisors and school principals for the entire nation is \$1441, according to the U.S. Department of Education. The 5 states that pay the highest salaries are: New York, California, New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. The 5 lowest are: North Dakota, Alabama, South Carolina, Arkansas and Mississippi. In many areas, especially in the South, salaries of Negro teachers are far below the average of white teachers for these states.

On November 11, Harry Bridges, West Coast labor leader in attendance on the annual convention of the CIO, was invited by the Harvard Teachers Union (AFL) and the Harvard Liberal Union to deliver the Armistice Day address. At Indianapolis, Roane Waring, National Commander of the American Legion who is rapidly gaining notoriety as a labor-baiter, declared that Harvard University's failure to prevent Bridges speech was "a slap in the face of every man who wears a uniform in this war." Dr. A. Sprague Coolidge, president of the Harvard Teachers Union, replied to the criticism with the declaration, "As I understand it, one of the things we are most proud of in America is the right of the freedom of speech, and that means we give freedom of speech not only to those who say what we like, but to those who have anything to say.... I want to commend the University for maintaining its tradition of placing its facilities at the disposal of any responsible group for the discussion of public questions."

Ensign Robert N. Adrian, wounded in the sinking of the "Gregory," told in Hollywood how a raft loaded with wounded seamen was rescued by a powerful Negro mess attendant who tied a line about his body and swam against the tide for 6 hours, braving the shark-infested waters until sighted by a barge. Known to Ensign Adrian only as "French," the Negro hero when warned of sharks responded, "I'm gonna tow this old crate in. Just keep telling me if I'm going the right way." Ensign Adrian was able to cling to the side of the overloaded raft. Shall this man who demonstrated heroism and courage of the highest order come back home to be treated as a second-class citizen?

Recently the Ford Motor Co., was ordered to pay \$924,000 back wages to 1,197 employees discharged for union activities from 1937 to 1941. These cases were those in which the NLRB & Supreme Court had found the Ford Co., guilty prior to the signing of the collective bargaining contract, June 20, 1941. The contract provided that these cases would be negotiated or arbitrated. The award was made by Rev. Father Albert H. Poetker, S.J., executive dean of the University of Detroit, chosen as arbitrator when negotiations failed. The Ford Co., has paid \$2,600,500 to employees discharged for union activities prior to signing a CIO contract.

The First Christian Church, Salem, Oregon is maintaining fellowship with Japanese evacuated from that area by contributing to the interdenominational mission maintained for evacuees at Labish. When other churches withdrew their support, First Church increased its contribution. The pastor, Dudley Strain, writes, "That still doesn't represent a lot from the financial standpoint, but from the standpoint of Christian attitudes it means a lot just now." Members of the church are making substantial contributions through the church to the support of one of their number, a young ministerial student, who is in Civilian Public Service.

"COLOR: UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF DEMOCRACY"

For 30 years Survey Associates have issued from time to time special editions of Survey Graphic, its monthly magazine devoted to developments in the field of social progress and companion publication to Survey Mid-Monthly. With the November issue, Survey Graphic comes out with a 127 page issue devoted to the race problem in the U.S., entitled, "Color: Unfinished Business of Democracy," was edited by Dr. Alain Locke of Howard Univ., who 17 years ago edited another special issue dealing with the race problem entitled, "Harlem: Mecca of the New Negro."

The new issue brings out many pertinent facts about the Negro in the U.S. For instance, the proportion of Negroes to the total population is now only 10%, whereas in 1790 it was 20%. The South has 77% of the Negro population, the North and East 21.7%, and the Far West 1.3%, but the increase of Negro population in the North and East and in the West is much more rapid than in the South. Almost half of the Negroes now live in the city - the proportion being 48.6% urban to 51.4% rural. Educationally, 41.3% of Negroes have less than 5 years of schooling, as compared to only 7.4% of whites who have that little. Yet Negro illiteracy is disappearing. In 1865 only one Negro in 20 could read; today 18 out of 20 can read and enrollment in public high schools is growing at a rapid rate. In 1920 Negro enrollment in public high schools was 2.6 per 1000 Negroes. By 1930 it had reached 10 per 1000, and by 1941 the figure was 25.5 per 1000. Negro incomes are still low. In the large north central cities four out of ten earn less than \$1,000 per year, while in Southern rural communities nine out of ten have less than \$1,000 per year. Edwin R. Embree, president of the Julius Rosenwald Fund contributes a statement of Basic Steps Toward Democracy: 1. Cease racial discrimination in the armed forces. 2. Protect Negro troops from insult and abuse by stern insistence on respect for the American uniform. 3. Continue to insist that in all war production, employment be given without discrimination as to race, creed or color. 4. Equalize school and other public facilities, as is strictly ordered by the Constitution of These United States. 5. While there are Southern states which for many years to come will probably wish to keep segregation of facilities, all these must be made equal to both races. Copies can be had from Survey Associates, 112 E. 19th St., N.Y., for 50¢ each, 3 for \$1.00, or send \$1.00 for a 5 month trial subscription.

Anti-Liquor Program Approved (continued)

1. That our present strategy be to support local option in the largest political units possible.

2. That on the national level we devote our energies to securing the enactment of S.860 in order to protect our men in the armed services.

3. That we urge support of existing temperance organizations where programs and personnel offer hope of effective leadership. Where these conditions do not exist that efforts be directed toward bringing about needed changes.

4. That steps be taken to create more effective educational materials for our churches, including programs of action for local congregations.

5. That churches be urged to cooperate with existing character-building and recreational agencies to provide wholesome alternatives for the expenditure of leisure time.

The most rapid gains in liquor control in the U.S. today are being made under local option. In Kentucky 67 counties have gone dry by that method. Rapid advance is being made in Illinois. A considerable number of Texas' 277 counties have always been dry and when the 18th amendment was repealed they immediately reverted to local option. Among recent dry gains in that state can be counted Wichita county, Wichita Falls, county seat, 45,000 population; Grayson county, Sherman, county seat, 17,000 population and Tarrant county, Fort Worth, county seat, 177,000 population. Fort Worth is one of the state's leading manufacturing and distributing centers and is now also a defense industrial center. Under the tidal wave of repeal some states passed legislation that does not permit local option. In such states the first task is to secure legislation allowing local communities to determine for themselves whether or not liquor shall be sold in their midst.

Through local option it will be possible for those communities that do not want liquor to get rid of it immediately. Under this program a very considerable portion of the nation can go dry at once, restricting the sale of liquor to those centers where the majority of the citizens are willing to tolerate its depredations.

Another important task is that of revitalizing our dry agencies. Neither the personnel of the governing boards nor the executive leadership of the Anti-Saloon League in recent years has been of a calibre to inspire confidence. If the League is to regain the confidence and support of the churches its whole organizational set-up, from bottom to top, must become more representative, not of ecclesiastical organizations, but of the Christian people who make up the membership of the churches. In some states it will be necessary to get rid of the little inside self-perpetuating group known as "the headquarters committee" and substitute a group more representative of the dry constituency. The League seemingly has not yet learned that a new day has dawned in the war against the liquor traffic and that its more intelligent and dependable constituency is awaiting only the call of a leadership in which it can have confidence.

Adopts 10-Point Program (continued)

pastoral care for many churches that are without pastoral leadership. This calls for the development of a ministry especially trained for the rural field. We must seek the cooperation of our schools and colleges for the task of enlistment and training. Men who are to serve in rural fields need, in addition to a sound academic and theological training, specialized knowledge in the fields of rural sociology, rural economics, rural community organization, and rural pastoral theology. They need also to know something about agriculture and about the organizations that farmers are interested in, such as the Farm Bureau, the Grange, the National Farmers Union, 4-H clubs for rural young people, and the work of the county agent and the extension services rendered by the state agricultural college. They should also know about the various institutes, conferences, and short courses available to farmers and to rural pastors. This calls for better salaries for rural ministers, with more rural churches providing pension and old-age retirement for their ministers. This will not be accomplished without a growth in the sense of stewardship, both of the soil and of the fruits of toil. A glance at the Year Book shows that many rural churches give little or nothing for the spread of the gospel at home or abroad, except the small stipend paid to the preacher who comes once or twice a month, often arriving Sunday morning and leaving Sunday night, plus a small amount for heating in winter and occasional collections for painting and repairs. A program of stewardship that will develop the giving resources of the rural church is an inescapable necessity if the church is to prosper in these areas. The net reproductive rate of population, according to 1930-1940 Census figures was only 74 for urban communities. But for rural non-farm families it was 114. For rural farm families it was 144. Therefore attention must be given to rural Christian education, for it is from this source that our urban population will be recruited.

Enough is here stated to indicate that the rural church constitutes one of the most challenging fields for Christian advance in the world today. It is in no sense a competitor of foreign missions. Rather it is imperative that we build a strong home base in order to supply the men and women, the sacrificial consecration, and the money to meet the staggering demands that will confront the church on foreign fields when this war is over.

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